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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1966

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H.C.T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
Senior Public Health Inspector	George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	David G. Jones, M.A.P.H.I. Resigned 12th August, 1966. Thomas W. Gibson, M.A.P.H.I. Commenced 19th December, 1966.
Clerks :	Mrs. R. Smith. Resigned 6th May, 1966. Mrs. T. Robinson. Commenced 28th March, 1966.

Tel. Gosforth 52053

Council Chambers,
GOSFORTH,
Northumberland.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Gosforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to present the report on the health of the
district for 1966.

The general and vital statistics are set out and figures given
for tuberculosis and infectious disease. Some facts, figures and
comments on the subject of air pollution are also presented.

The work of the department was made easier by the friendly
co-operation of the other officers of the Council and of many
individuals in the district. Lastly I would again like to thank
the members of the Council for their interest in health matters
and their active support of the work of the department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	1739
Registrar General's estimated population	27,510
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 31st March, 1966.	9035
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£4141
Rateable value at 31st March, 1966	£1,024,173

Population trends -

1951	24,500
1956	24,810
1961	26,600
1962	26,780
1963	26,800
1964	27,410
1965	27,400
1966	27,510

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rates</u>
LIVE BIRTHS	195	213	408	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				14.83
Comparability factor 0.97				
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				14.39
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	10	6	16	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births.				3.92
STILLBIRTHS	1	2	3	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births				7.29
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths in the first year)	3	2	5	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				12.25
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks)	3	1	4	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				9.80
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first week and stillbirths)	4	3	7	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				17.03
There have been no Maternal deaths since 1960				
DEATHS	210	236	446	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				16.21
Comparability factor 0.72				
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				11.67

Comparison with previous years

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956-60	16.3	2.7	22.2	14.3	11.6	33.0	11.6
1961-65	15.8	4.3	20.4	18.6	13.3	31.8	11.7
1961	16.0	3.8	21.9	17.4	15.1	36.9	12.5
1962	17.7	3.5	19.6	33.4	27.8	40.6	11.9
1963	15.7	5.5	20.2	13.7	2.3	22.5	10.6
1964	15.2	4.8	18.3	18.6	14.0	32.0	11.6
1965	14.2	4.0	21.9	9.9	7.5	26.8	11.9
1966	14.4	3.9	7.3	12.3	9.8	17.0	11.7

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS - 1966

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegi- timate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Comparability Factors	Deaths
England and Wales	17.7	7.9	15.4	19.0	12.9	26.3	0.26	11.7	--	--
Admin County of Northumberland.	15.1	5.1	16.8	20.1	13.5	28.1	0.13*	12.9	1.00	1.05
Urban Districts of Northumberland.	15.5	5.1	17.0	20.0	13.2	28.0	0.16*	13.0	0.99	1.09
South Area of Northumberland.	14.0	4.5	10.9	17.5	12.3	21.1	0.65*	12.6	0.94	0.91
Gosforth U.D.C.	14.4	3.9	7.3	12.3	9.8	17.0	Nil	11.7	0.97	0.72

* All these figures
relate to a single
death.

Principal Causes of Death

	Total		Home		Hospital	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cancer	69	15.5	59	19.9	10	6.7
Cerebro vascular disease	62	13.9	46	15.5	16	10.1
Heart and Circulatory disease	155	34.8	112	37.7	43	28.8
Respiratory disease	97	21.7	37	12.4	60	40.3
All other diseases	40	8.9	25	8.4	15	10.7
Accidents and suicide	23	5.2	18	6.1	5	3.4
	446	100	297	100	149	100

Place of Death

	Home	St. Nicholas Hospital	Other Hospitals	Total
A Deaths in district	164	231	5	400
B Outward transfers	11	84	3	98
C Remaining in district A-B	153	147	2	302
D Inward transfers	144	-	-	144
E Total deaths assigned to districts C and D.	297	147	2	446

Cause of Death	Sex	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. - 1	1- 5-	5- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-	65- 75 & over	Total all ages
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, Other	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
3. Syphilitic Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and Parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	2	11
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	5	8	20
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	9	4	21
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	15	24
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	28	38

18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	12	14	16	47
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	14	19	41
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	7
20.	Other Heart Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	7	11	21
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	16	21
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	6
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	10
22.	Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	15	26
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	25	38
24.	Bronchitis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	8	13
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	9
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	7
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Malforma- tions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill- defined diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	10
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	4	10
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	6
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
34.	All other accidents	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	10
		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
35.	Suicide	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	35	61	87	210
		F	1	1	1	5	1	1	6	8	27	62	129	236	

Causes of Stillbirths

F Anencephalus

M Hydrocephalus

F Placental insufficiency

Causes of Infant Deaths

Congenital heart disease

Prematurity

Bronchopneumonia

Asphyxia neonatorum

Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	4 weeks-1 year
1	-	-
2	-	-
-	-	1
1	-	-
4	-	1

Deaths from Cancer

		1-4	5-14	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	TOTAL
Oesophagus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Pancreas	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Liver	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gall Bladder	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	4
Rectum	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Lung	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	2	11
	F	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3
Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	5
Uterus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ovary	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Kidney	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ureter	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bladder	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Prostate	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	5
Primary site unknown	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral tumour	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multiple Myeloma	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Hodgkin's Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarcoma of palate	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lymphosarcoma	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	14	11	36
	F	1	-	-	-	2	4	7	10	9	33

NOTE: This table has been prepared from local records and differs in one or two particulars from the table prepared by the Registrar General.

We have no records of one of the deaths which the Registrar General has attributed to 'all other accidents.'

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1966, set out in age groups.

	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-64	65 and over.
Measles	300	13	178	107	2	-
Whooping Cough	30	1	13	15	1	-
Pneumonia	12	-	-	1	10	1
Scarlet Fever	8	-	1	7	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	4
Dysentery	1	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	2	-
	357	14	192	131	15	5

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	5	22	15	5	1	3	9	6	2	37	85	110	300
Whooping Cough	-	2	1	-	-	-	8	6	2	1	7	3	30
Pneumonia	5	1	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Scarlet Fever	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	8
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2

Salmonella Infections.

Two cases came to light. A young woman was found to be excreting *Salmonella enteritidis* while a patient in hospital. The cause of the infection was not discovered. The other case was a man who became ill with a *Salmonella typhi* murium infection. Here again the source of the infection was not positively identified. In both cases family contacts were investigated with negative results. Specimens were taken from both the cases until negative results had been obtained.

Smallpox.

A family who had been in contact with a case of mild smallpox in the Midlands spent a few days in Gosforth. The persons with whom they stayed were all vaccinated and one man who worked in a hospital was kept off for a few days. The main impact of the outbreak in the Midlands however was the increased number of vaccination certificates which had to be authenticated. The Spanish and certain other Governments required that all travellers from the United Kingdom should have a valid certificate. The number of persons requiring authentications of their certificates amounted to several hundred and there was often a queue at the health department door.

Leprosy.

This disease became notifiable to the district Medical Officer of Health on 1st March, 1966. Previously it had been notifiable to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health who had about 340 cases on his register for the whole of England and Wales. About 40 cases come to light annually and most of these have contracted the infection abroad. The problem is greatest in areas with large numbers of coloured immigrants. The infectivity of the leprosy bacillus is low and it is highly unlikely that it could spread in this country at the present time.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and Vaccination are given as far as possible according to the following schedule :-

VISITS	at <u>AGE</u>	<u>VACCINE</u>
1	3 months	Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough) and Oral Poliomyelitis.
2	4 months	Triple Antigen.
3	5 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
4	7 months	Oral Poliomyelitis
5	1 - 2 years	Smallpox vaccination
6	2 years	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	4 - 5 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus Oral Poliomyelitis
8	8 - 10 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus
9	10 - 12 years	B.C.G. (to those negative to skin test)

At the present time a vaccine against measles is being tested out at several centres including Newcastle upon Tyne. The vaccine is effective but is inclined to cause reactions. Several problems have to be worked out, e.g. whether live or killed virus vaccines are the more effective, the spacing between injections etc., but the likelihood is that this vaccine will come into general use in the next few years.

In the following table the number of children immunised with various antigens is given. Comparison with a similar table in last years report indicates a falling off in the number of children in all groups excepting smallpox vaccination where there has been an increase.

Type of Antigen	Year of Birth						TOTAL
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	1950-58	
Primary diphtheria/tetanus/ pertussis including a small number where only diphtheria/ tetanus was given.	124	169	5	3	7	8	316
Reinforcing diphtheria/ tetanus pertussis.		9	207	46	57	3	322
Reinforcing diphtheria/ tetanus including a small number where only diphtheria or only tetanus was given.		1	2	2	137	179	321
Primary poliomyelitis.	107	168	8	4	8	3	298
Reinforcing poliomyelitis.	1	14	189	45	217	20	486
Primary smallpox vaccination	15	100	59	7	13	14	208
Re-vaccination.		1	2	2	16	39	60
B.C.G.						239	239

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TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of New Cases

AGE	New Cases				Inward Transfers			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
15 - 24		2				1	1	
25 - 34	1			1	1	1	1	
35 - 44	1							
45 - 54		2			1			
55 - 64	3				1			
65 +	2							
	7	4	-	1	3	2	2	-
	11		1		5		2	
	12				7			
	19							

Comparison with previous years

Year	New cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946-50	26	5	14
" 1951-55	32	11	6
" 1956-60	23	11	2
" 1960-65	13	8	1
1961	20	12	2
1962	10	11	-
1963	12	2	-
1964	7	7	1
1965	15	7	1
1966	12	7	2

Tuberculosis Register, 1966.

	No. of cases on register at commencement of year.		No. of cases added to register.		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining.	
	Pul.	Non-Pul	Pul.	Non-Pul	Pul.	Non-Pul	Pul.	Non-Pul
Males	119	13	10	2	13	1	116	14
Females	77	27	6	1	9	2	74	26

AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution and its effect upon health is a complex matter, but over the last 15 years great advances have been made in the understanding of the subject. It has been thought worth while to set down some facts, figures and comments derived mainly from the work of others, and I have borrowed from writings in science and technology as well as in medicine. Three aspects of the situation will be dealt with. Firstly, the patterns in the consumption of fuel and the pollutants produced. In this I am very much indebted to the writings of Dr. Albert Parker in various journals. Secondly, some local measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide for the past few years are given, and for these I would like to thank Mr. Corney, Mr. Strachan and Mr. Mair. Lastly, the death rates for bronchitis and lung cancer for various areas kindly supplied by the Medical Officers of Health concerned are looked at, although many reservations have to be made in the study of these figures.

The Consumption of Fuel

Apart from grit produced by some industrial processes, air pollution is a result of the consumption of fuel. Considerable change has taken place in the use of fuel over the last few years. While the total fuel consumed has increased, there has been a big move away from coal, which has been much more marked in London and the South of England.

MAIN TYPES OF FUEL USED (All figures in millions of tons)

	1938	1956	1965
Coal	176	215	182
Oil	12	36	98
Hydro Electricity	1	1	2
Nuclear Energy	-	-	6
Natural Gas	-	-	1
	189	252	289

The figures given for fuels other than coal are coal equivalents. One ton of oil is equivalent to 1.7 tons of coal.

Estimates of the amount of pollutants produced by the various classes of fuel have been made and a table produced by Dr. Albert Parker is given below:-

ESTIMATES OF AIR POLLUTION IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1965
(All figures in millions of tons)

Fuel and Glass of Consumer	Quantity of Fuel	Pollutants Discharged		
		Smoke	* Grit Dust	Sulphur Dioxide
COAL -				
Domestic	27.3	0.9	0.1	0.71
Electricity Works	69.3	Small	0.3	2.12
Railways	2.8	0.06	0.1	0.08
Industrial	39.0	0.14	0.3	1.12
Coke Ovens	25.7	Small	Small	0.09
Gas Works... ..	18.0	Small	Small	0.13
	182.1			
COKE -				
Domestic	6.3	Nil	Small	0.14
Industrial, etc.	6.9	Nil	Small	0.17
		1.1	0.8	4.55
OIL -				
Domestic	2.1	Small	Nil	0.01
Industrial, etc.	36.6	Small	Nil	1.76
Road and Rail Vehicles	15.5	Small	Nil	0.07
Marine Craft	1.1	Small	Nil	0.04
	55.3			1.88
TOTAL FOR COAL AND OIL		1.1	*0.8	6.43

*In addition, 0.4 million tons of grit are produced by other industrial processes.

From this it will be seen that the domestic fire produces three-quarters of the total smoke and half the total smoke and grit, even although it only accounts for one-tenth of the total fuel consumed.

The figures for smoke and sulphur dioxide produced in various years are also of interest.

SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN MILLIONS OF TONS

	1938	1956	1965
Smoke-Coal	2.71	2.25	1.10
" Oil	-	-	-
Sulphur Dioxide - Coal and Coke	4.07	4.80	4.55
" " Oil	0.06	0.53	1.88
	<u>4.13</u>	<u>5.33</u>	<u>6.43</u>

The big reduction in the amount of smoke between 1956 and 1965 has been achieved by a 75% reduction by industry and less than 20% by domestic consumers. Basically, it represents a voluntary move away from coal but clean air zones and the law against black smoke have also played a part. Industry has, of course, a strong economic motive to use fuel as efficiently as possible. The domestic consumer has the same economic motive but the capital costs are often a strong deterrent in spite of the grants available in smoke control areas. Local shortages of certain types of fuel have been a major stumbling block.

The total amount of sulphur dioxide produced has increased by 50% since 1938. While the total figures for coal and oil are given, there is a wide variation in the amount of sulphur dioxide produced by various kinds and qualities of each fuel. For instance, more sulphur dioxide is produced per ton of coal burned at power stations than per ton burned on a domestic grate. This is because of the more complete combustion of the fuel and because lower-quality coal is used at power stations. Measurements of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere fortunately do not show this increase, and in fact even although the total sulphur dioxide produced has increased by 20% in the last 10 years the average measurement of the gas in the atmosphere has gone down also by 20%. This is because in the absence of smoke more of the sulphur dioxide diffuses into the upper atmosphere. Also an increasing proportion of the sulphur dioxide is produced by industry and power stations, and the proper siting of these, e.g., Blyth Power Station, can lead to the dispersal of the gas where it will do little harm.

Local Measurements

Measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide is taking place at over 1,100 centres throughout the country and 20 of these are on Urban Tyneside. Readings are affected by a large number of variable factors, the chief ones being weather conditions and the seasonal use of domestic fuels. At each centre local factors have to be considered, e.g., at Newburn the withdrawal of steam locomotives on the Hexham line has led to a fall in the smoke readings. At Westerhope the large number of new buildings in the area has to be taken into consideration. At Shipley Street, on the other hand, clearance has substantially reduced the number of dwellings in the area. Blakelaw became a smoke control area on 1st July, 1965.

AVERAGE YEARLY FIGURES FOR CERTAIN CENTRES

Smoke in micrograms per cubic metre:-

Year	Newburn	Westerhope	Blakelaw	Shipley Street	Ponteland
1961	203	187	-	-	-
1962	165	168	182	349	-
1963	133	136	176	350	-
1964	127	129	195	383	-
1965	134	152	145	376	-
1966	59	134	96	234	44

SO₂ in micrograms per cubic metre:-

Year	Newburn	Westerhope	Blakelaw	Shipley Street	Ponteland
1961	70	93	-	-	-
1962	75	82	124	247	-
1963	98	90	92	229	-
1964	91	95	78	221	-
1965	99	111	97	201	-
1966	122	125	77	174	39

MONTHLY READINGS AT WESTERHOPE

	Smoke			SO ₂		
	1964	1965	1966	1964	1965	1966
January	111	221	279	199	76	222
February	172	158	223	135	66	174
March	195	208	107	148	160	98
April	101	142	117	135	85	109
May... ..	84	141	84	77	84	89
June	42	106	86	78	75	114
July	28	70	52	90	58	71
August	42	82	100	39	84	71
September	54	85	102	51	116	104
October	149	211	138	66	241	140
November	231	169	157	84	132	173
December	263	225	164	81	154	129

Road Vehicles.

10.74 million tons of petrol and 3.84 million tons of diesel fuel were consumed in 1965. This is 8.6% of the total fuel consumed.

Pollutants arising from these fuels will not add appreciably to general atmospheric pollution but there are dangers of high concentrations on main roads and in garages. The pollutants most likely to cause concern are black smoke, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. Other toxic substances are lead, sulphur dioxide, sulphuric acid, aldehydes derived from fuel or fuel additives, and oxides of nitrogen produced by the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen.

All these substances are being measured on busy roads, in garages, and also in industry where oil is used. So far, concentrations have not reached levels considered to be dangerous although some concern has been felt about the amount of carbon monoxide on main roads.

The health of persons such as policemen and garage attendants, who are most exposed to petrol and diesel fumes, is being closely watched. So far there has been no evidence of any added health risk in these occupations.

In certain American cities, particularly Los Angeles, concentrations of pollutants have reached much higher levels than any in this country. As yet there has been no proof of any added health risk among the inhabitants of these cities.

The situation with regard to vehicle exhausts has obviously got to be kept under review. No recognisable public health hazard has yet appeared, but it has of course to be remembered that the danger of cigarette smoking did not become apparent until large numbers of persons had been smoking for 30 or 40 years.

Cost of Air Pollution.

The Beaver Committee (1954) made estimates of the cost of air pollution in addition to the health risks. These estimates were tentative and have since been thought to have been too conservative. Costs come under three main headings:-

(1) DIRECT COSTS - £m per annum

Excess Laundry	25
Excess Painting and Decorating	30
Damage to Materials -	
Buildings	20
Metals	25
Textiles	50
	150m.

(2) LOSS OF EFFICIENCY COSTS -

Agriculture	10
Manufacturing	55
Transport	60
	125m.

(3) INCOMPLETE COMBUSTION OF FUEL 25m.

£300,000,000

The cost is estimated at £10 per head in the black areas and £5 per head elsewhere.

Progress of Smoke Control on Urban Tyneside.

Local Authority	Total Number of Premises	Premises under Smoke Control	% Premises Controlled
Felling U.D.	13,000	4,280	39.92
Newburn U.D.	10,831	2,662	24.46
Newcastle C.B.	99,333	21,417	21.56
Hebburn U.D.	9,184	1,947	21.19
Wallsend M.B.	17,505	3,247	18.54
Jarrow M.B.	9,740	1,131	11.61
Gateshead C.B.	37,603	3,511	9.31
Blaydon U.D.	12,302	808	6.57
Whitley Bay M.B.	14,776	797	5.39
Whickham U.D.	9,852	457	4.63
Gosforth U.D.	10,077	Nil	Nil
Longbenton U.D.	16,462	Nil	Nil
Ryton U.D.	5,398	Nil	Nil
South Shields C.B.	41,011	Nil	Nil
Tynemouth C.B.	27,040	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	334,164	40,257	12.04%

Air Pollution and Health

The diseases most clearly associated with air pollution are bronchitis and lung cancer, and some national and local figures are given below:-

Death Rates per 100,000 1961 - 1965		
	Bronchitis (all forms)	Cancer of Lung, Bronchus
England and Wales	67	53
Newcastle upon Tyne County Borough	86	77
Northumberland (Admin. County)	64	49
Urban Districts of Northumberland	69	52
Rural Districts of Northumberland	49	40
Gosforth Urban District	74	51
Newburn Urban District	49	41
Hexham and Bellingham Rural Districts	34	42

In England and Wales during 1961-65, 158,297 persons (112,943 males and 45,354 females) died from bronchitis, and 122,742 persons (104,202 males and 18,540 females) died from cancer of the lung. For the latter disease the number of deaths has been increasing by about 1,000 per annum.

In comparing the figures for different districts various factors have to be taken into consideration. For instance, if an adjustment is made for the age of the population the difference between the urban and rural areas of Northumberland becomes more marked.

Age has also to be taken into consideration in assessing the figures for Gosforth and to a less extent so has the fact that a few of the deaths are at St. Nicholas Hospital. An adjustment for age would bring the bronchitis figure down to around the national average but on the other hand if an adjustment were made for social and occupational factors this would put the figure back up again. It would thus seem that the death rate from bronchitis in Gosforth is in fact high.

The death rates from bronchitis give a very limited picture. For every 1,000 deaths where bronchitis is given as the primary cause there are almost as many again where it is given as an associated cause. The number of deaths is only a tiny percentage of the total prevalence. Various surveys have shown that bronchitis is the commonest cause of absence from work among men and also the commonest reason for men consulting their general practitioner.

While international comparisons have to be made with reserve, it would appear that Britain has ten times as many deaths from bronchitis as the United States, France or the Scandinavian countries. Abroad bronchitis is sometimes known as the English disease. It should, however, be regarded as a group of diseases rather than a single entity. The causes can be simply stated as constitution of the individual, infection and the inhalation of foreign matter. Infection of many types leads to bronchitis, and chronic bronchitis more often results from repeated minor infections rather than one or two severe infections. The inhalation of foreign matter can be divided into

Personal air pollution

smoking;

Public air pollution

domestic exposure,
occupational exposure.

Population studies of bronchitis show it to be associated with "the less well paid, the less skilled and those living in less pleasant surroundings." The death rate in heavy cigarette smokers is six times that of non-smokers. The contrast between the figures for Newcastle upon Tyne and Hexham and Bellingham rural districts indicates the increased hazard of an urban environment.

The ultimate cause of cancer of the lung is not known but the outstanding association is with cigarette smoking, the death rate of heavy cigarette smokers being thirty times that of non-smokers. However, the disease is almost twice as common in cities as in rural areas and there is a less marked association with the various other factors leading to bronchitis.

All this has been stated in some detail as it is considered to be the outstanding problem of environmental health in Britain in the 20th century. The improvements in water supply, food and sanitation in the last century have led to a great reduction in death and illness from bowel diseases. The rewards in improvement in health by the reduction of air pollution are likely to be much greater. It would seem to me that cleaning the air is by far the biggest contribution that the Council can make to the health of this community.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31st DECEMBER 1966.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to present for your consideration my report on the work of the Health Department in the field of environmental hygiene.

Inevitably I have to report staff changes involving both inspectorial and clerical staff. Mr. D. Jones, my additional inspector left the service of this Council on the 14th August, to take up a similar appointment with Newburn U.D.C. Mr. Jones' period of service with this Council amounted to just over twelve months and I wish him well in his new appointment. The successor to Mr. Jones was Mr. T. W. Gibson who took up his appointment on the 19th December, having served in a similar capacity with Felling U.D.C.

Apropos the clerical staff, the post vacated by Mrs. Raine who retired in July 1965, was not filled until near the end of March, when Mrs. T. Robinson was appointed.

Shortly after this appointment, Mrs. R. Smith who was appointed as junior clerk in April 1962 left the service of the Council. During the remainder of the year the department was served by only one clerk.

I extend to Mrs. Smith my very good wishes for her future and I trust that Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Gibson will enjoy a long and happy association with the Council.

Despite staff shortages the amount of work accomplished during the year was not inconsiderable. Reports were submitted on a smoke control programme, and also in connection with the condition of dwelling-houses situated in an area on the north side of Henry Street from the Great North Road to Regent Road.

Since implementing the provisions of the Housing Act 1964, relating to the compulsory improvement of dwellings 37 applications for improvement grants had been received.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply, provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and I am indebted to Mr. M.J. Lowther, Engineer to the Company, for supplying the following information.

Bacteriological Examination

During the year, a total of 1,231 works control samples from the Whittle Dene and Henderson Filters were examined in the Company's laboratory and of these, two were "Unsatisfactory", one "Suspicious", five "Satisfactory" and the remainder "Excellent".

In addition to the foregoing, 215 samples of water from the Warkworth Filter Plant were examined, 318 from special fixed sampling points and 77 from random points in the area, all of which were classified "Excellent".

The classified results of 11 samples taken from various points in the Gosforth area were all "Excellent".

Chemical Analyses

Regular chemical analyses of the water supplied to Gosforth were carried out during the year. These showed that no significant change in chemical composition, compared with the previous year had occurred, and the results given below are still quite typical of the supply.

	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Mean</u>
pH Value	7.7	7.0	7.2
Free CO ₂	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	150	50	90
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	200	100	150
Carbonate	160	60	90
Non-Carbonate	80	30	60
Calcium	190	70	120
Magnesium	60	20	30
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	70	20	50
Silica (as SiO ₂)	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	0.3	0.1	0.2
Iron (as Fe)	0.25	0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Free & Saline Ammonia (as N)	0.23	0.04	0.12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0.20	0.01	0.09
Nitrates (as N)	2.0	0.1	0.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	3.4	1.0	2.0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection

During the year a weekly collection of refuse from all premises throughout the district was maintained. It was also possible to provide the usual bi-weekly collection from certain food establishments.

It is a matter of regret that I find myself unable to adequately cope with the massive number of applications for special collections of refuse, i.e. large accumulations of garden refuse, bulky objects such as unwanted furniture, including pianos.

The remedy for dealing effectively with these applications would appear to lie in an increase in the present collecting staff.

Refuse Disposal

Tipping operations continued to be carried out at a site on the old Coast Road situated in the Urban District of Longbenton. The average distance from Gosforth to the disposal point is approximately 10 miles. The number of loads deposited in the tip from Gosforth alone was 4243, representing an estimated tonnage of 8349 tons. Expenditure incurred in the disposal of refuse is equally borne by the Longbenton and Gosforth Councils.

Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to voice on your behalf our sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Longbenton Council for continuing to provide this Council with facilities for the disposal of refuse. In this particular regard I would also like to mention Mr. Thirkell, Senior Public Health Inspector to the Longbenton Council.

Regional Refuse Disposal

The Council agreed to accept the recommendation of the Joint Working Party which had been formed to consider the short term and long term measures in connection with refuse disposal in the Tyneside and Wearside areas.

The recommendation was that the Local Government Operational Research Unit be engaged at a cost of £7,500 to prepare proposals within a period of one year for the future development of regional refuse disposal. The cost to be shared amongst the participant authorities on a per capita-basis, roughly £65 per 10,000 population, or alternatively, the cost could be shared on a rateable value basis.

Salvage Disposal

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills for the year ended the 31st March, 1967 was 354 tons, a decrease of 58 tons on the previous financial year.

The figure of 354 tons per annum represented 1.07 tons per month per 1,000 of population and realised an income of £3220, a decrease of £521, over the previous year.

These results are disappointing but it is at least gratifying to note that the target of 1.0 ton of waste paper per 1,000 of population per month, which I have often referred to, has been achieved.

The figure for the previous financial year was 412 tons and this represented an all time record for the Department. It should however be borne in mind that this achievement followed an extensive publicity campaign, conducted by, and at the expense of the Board Mills. It should also be borne in mind, that during the year under review, for a limited period, the Board Mills instituted an unofficial restriction on the forwarding of paper to the Mills.

The segregation of clean waste paper, cardboard, etc., from other forms of refuse remains a sound economical proposition. But of equal importance is the major role this practice plays in the ultimate disposal of refuse. May I offer to the residents and shopkeepers of Gosforth who so conscientiously co-operate with us in this matter, my sincere thanks.

The tonnage of the various grades of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the year, and the income received from the sale thereof is as follows: -

Grade	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	188.	8.	2.	1648.	13.	8.
Fibreboard	67.	2.	2.	687.	6.	3.
Newsprint	98.	2.	3.	883.	19.	1.
	<u>353.</u>	<u>13.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>£ 3219.</u>	<u>19.</u>	<u>0.</u>

Costing Returns

The cost of collection and disposal of refuse appertaining to this district and relating to 1000 of population and per 1000 premises is described below and for the sake of comparison I have again covered a period of four years. I have also included similar costs relating to districts with a population range of under 30000 so far as the figures are available.

Per 1000 of population

	1963/64	1964/65	1965/66	1966/67
	£	£	£	£
Gosforth U.D.C.	781	827	940	1019
Other Authorities	885	946	-	-

Per 1000 premises

	1963/64	1964/65	1965/66	1966/67
	£	£	£	£
Gosforth U.D.C.	2117	2284	2614	2723
Other Authorities	3290	2973	-	-

Unless all the refuse is weighed or at least 80% of it, net costs per ton are apt to be misleading. There is a tendency to overestimate tonnages and thus obscure the true unit costs, where refuse is not actually weighed. In my opinion, for fair comparison, costs should be related to 1000 population and 1000 premises.

It is interesting to note that for the year 1964/65 (figures beyond this year are not available) the average net cost per ton, collection and disposal relating to all Authorities which weighed 80% or more of their refuse was 83/5d. while that of Authorities which weighed less than 80% was 55/4d. per ton.

The highest and the lowest annual net costs in respect of the larger urban districts for 1964/65 is as follows:-

	<u>Highest</u>	<u>Lowest</u>
	s. d.	s. d.
Per Ton	99. 6.	20. 0.
	£	£
Per 1000 population	1828	560
Per 1000 premises	4392	1463

Staff

Sickness among the manual staff showed an increase upon the previous year. The amount involved being £570, representing some 1812 man-hours as against £364, representing 1225 man-hours for the previous year.

During the year I reported the retirement of J. Nunn a refuse collector, and F. Busby, motor driver. Both men had served this Council exceedingly well, the former for 16 years, and the latter, 41 years.

It was with deep regret that toward the end of the year I had to record the death of Mr. Nunn.

It always affords me the greatest pleasure to thank the manual staff, who, under the splendid leadership of my foreman, Mr. Bishton, have again proved their worth.

COST STATEMENT

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
		£	£	£	%
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>				
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour	13906	2040	15946	51
	(ii) Transport	7754	2908	10662	34
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2396	511	2907	9
	(iv) Other items	23	1883	1906	6
	(v) Total gross expenditure	24079	7342	31421	100
2	GROSS INCOME	29	3345	3374	-
3	NET COST	24050	3997	28047	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	-	-	-	-
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only				
	Collection Item 1(i)	30. 2.			
	Disposal Item 1(i)		4. 5.	34. 7.	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only.				
	Collection Item 1(ii)	16. 10.			
	Disposal Item 1(ii)		6. 4.	23. 2.	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton				
	Collection Item 3	52. 3.			
	Disposal Item 3		8. 8.	60. 11.	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	874	145	1019	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	2335	388	2723	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10.	Area (statute acres) - land and inland water	1,739 acres
11.	Population at 30th June 1966 (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	27,510 persons
12.	Total refuse collected	9,203 tons
13.	Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	5%
14.	Weight (cwt's) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) ..	18.3
15.	Number of premises from which refuse is collected	10,300 premises
16.	Premises from which collections are made <u>at least</u> once weekly ..	100% of total
17.	Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including NIL miles by secondary transport)	4 miles
18.	Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	NIL %
19.	Total refuse disposed of (i) council's own refuse	9,203 tons
	(ii) for other local authorities	NIL tons
20.	Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):	
(a)	Crude tipping	-%
(b)	Controlled tipping	100%
(c)	Separation/controlled tipping	-%
(d)	~~Direct~~ incineration	-%
(e)	Separation and incineration	-%
(f)	Other methods (state nature)	-%
		100%

21.	Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:		Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
		Income (Included in Item 2)	
		£	Tons
(a)	Raw Kitchen Waste	-	-
(b)	Scrap Metal	-	-
(c)	Waste Paper	3374	354
(d)	Other Salvage	-	-
(e)	Totals	£ 3374	354

2.	Trade Refuse:	
(a)	Income	£..NIL..
(b)	Tonnage	...NIL..tons

HOUSING

In this particular field, attention was focused on the dwelling-houses in the Henry Street area, and on the improvement of houses in the improvement area, i.e. the area comprising Sandringham Road and Audley Road.

Reports were submitted to the Health Committee on the Henry Street area which is an area, bounded to the north by Regent Farm Road, to the east by the Great North Road, to the south by Henry Street and to the west by Hedley Street.

Originally the area consisted of fifty-six houses in flats and sixteen self-contained houses, providing for a total of 130 dwellings. Of this total 26 flats in Irton Street and 22 flats in Santon Street have now been demolished. The remaining dwellings in Santon Street were found to be substantially free from dampness, particularly those on the west side, structurally sound and in a reasonable state of repair. Based on present-day standards of fitness, approximately one-half of the houses were regarded as unfit for human habitation, the bulk of which were contained in Henry Street.

The existing standard of fitness as laid down in the Housing Act 1957, is generally accepted as a low standard and great care must be exercised in determining the unfitness or otherwise of a dwelling. The standard has no regard for the provision of bath rooms, a constant supply of hot water, or indoor sanitation. The provision of such facilities should not be looked upon as luxuries in this day and age, but should be regarded as essential features of a dwelling-house.

The 10-year slum clearance programme, submitted to the Minister in 1955 was completed in 1965. With the completion of our 10-year programme, and with reference to the directive issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a further 350 houses, subject to survey, were considered for inclusion in a future slum clearance programme. These properties are principally situated in the Coxlodge and central areas.

Possibly of equal importance is the need to improve certain other properties, i.e. properties which may be classed as 'aged' but not unfit, and in this direction an encouraging start was made in our first Improvement Area. Not unnaturally, some owner-occupiers, and to a lesser extent, some tenants, unprogressive in outlook, expressed their dissatisfaction in the improvement of their houses, even with Grant Aid. The main objections so far as tenants were concerned, were possible rent increases. Lack of funds, and to some extent, enthusiasm, seemed to be the main objections raised by owners. In connection with the latter, the Council resolved to consider applications for loans to enable owners to meet their financial obligations.

On the whole, the scheme has been welcomed and in my opinion has made satisfactory progress. In the Improvement Area alone, 37 applications for Improvement Grants were received, all to the full standard.

The technical and administrative work involved is fairly considerable, many visits have to be made, and appointments kept with owners, tenants and contractors. It is hoped to complete the first phase of our Improvement Area Schemes before the end of 1967, and by that time, over 160 houses will have been dealt with.

It should be our endeavour to forge ahead with further similar schemes in other parts of the district so that ultimately, all houses capable of being improved i.e. the sound older houses lacking in modern amenities, are brought up to the full standard, or at least to the reduced standard.

Standard Grants (Compulsory Improvements)
Section 20. Housing Act 1964.

1.	No. of Preliminary Notices served	37
2.	No. of Immediate Improvement Notices served	37
3.	Applications submitted to Local Authority	37
4.	Applications rejected	NIL
5.	Applications approved	37
6.	No. of houses where works of improvement proceeded with and completed, during the year	9
7.	No. of houses provided with:-	
	(a) Bath or shower	2
	(b) Wash-hand basin	5
	(c) Hot water supply	5
	(d) Internal water closet	9
	(e) Food Store	6

Standard Grants (Excluding Compulsory Improvements)
House Purchase and Housing Act 1959
as amended.

	<u>During the</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made.	6	118
2. Number of houses so provided with		
(a) Bath or shower	1	64
(b) Wash-hand basin	5	74
(c) Hot water supply	4	71
(d) Water Closet	6	109
(e) Food Store	2	82

Housing Statistics.

New Houses completed during the year

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| (a) By local authority | 28 |
| (b) By private persons | 29 |

Closing and Demolition

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas | NIL |
| (b) Houses closed but not demolished | NIL |
| (c) Other houses permanently discontinued
as dwellings and not included above. | 23 |

Unfit houses made fit

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) After informal action by local authority | 47 |
| (b) After formal action by local authority | 8 |

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

During the year a report was submitted to the Health Committee on steps taken hitherto by the Council in connection with the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. The Council resolved to adhere to previous decisions, namely, that until open fire smokeless fuels were more readily available, no steps be taken toward the making of Smoke Control Orders.

Only one complaint was received during the year in connection with atmospheric pollution, although a few enquiries were received regarding the likelihood of establishing smoke control areas in the district.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

There are no known premises operating within the district as boarding establishments within the meaning of the Act.

The Act prohibits the keeping of a boarding establishment for animals except under the authority of a licence, which may be granted by a local authority.

Pet Animals Act 1951

No application for licensing of premises were received during the year, and the number of premises licensed under the Act remains at one.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

Only two complaints of noise nuisance were received during the year, both of which, were minor in character. One concerned the allegation of a noise nuisance emanating from a military establishment and stated to be affecting nearby residents.

It was not possible to determine the extent of the nuisance, but with the closing of the establishment, the matter resolved itself. The other complaint concerned noise emanating from a garage where it was alleged, work was being carried out during what was deemed to be unreasonable hours. This seemed to be an isolated case and on an approach being made to the management the practice ceased, much to the relief of nearby residents.

Drainage Systems and Drain Testing

The amount of work carried out during the year in this connection showed a reduction upon the previous year. Albeit, over 1300 yards of new drainage work was tested, necessitating the application of 174 water tests and 21 smoke tests. The total number of visits made, was just under 300.

Principally, the work was confined to the construction of new buildings, six sites being involved, and work in connection with improvement grants.

Disinfestation

Thirty-three complaints of insects were dealt with covering no less than nine different species. The wasp and the cockroach again proving the most troublesome. One complaint concerned an infestation of bed-bugs where stringent measures had to be adopted.

These measures necessitated the treatment of four rooms which included the stripping of wallpaper, etc. in each room. It was learned that the previous tenant had moved into another house in the district, and as a further precaution, this house was also treated.

Both premises were kept under surveillance.

Rodent Infestation

The number of complaints received during the year showed a slight increase, 94 complaints as against 80, the previous year. However, this figure was a decided improvement upon 1964, when the number of complaints reported was 123.

The number of premises involved was one hundred and fifty-five dwelling houses. Primary and revisits amounted to five hundred and sixty.

Eighty-six dwelling houses were found to be infested with rats and forty-seven found to be infested with mice. There was no evidence of any infestation in the remaining twenty-two dwelling houses. In no instance was any major infestation encountered.

The majority of business premises are regularly serviced by servicing agents. This is a very wise and necessary precaution, particularly in connection with food premises.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

This Act, passed in 1963 makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office or shop premises, and came into operation in 1964.

Enforcing authorities are required to submit to the Ministry of Labour an annual report of their proceedings under the Act. Details of this report which are described below, will give some idea of the work involved in the administration of the Act. The investigation and reporting of accidents incorporated in the Act is a new branch of our work, and in this connection five accidents were notified, none of which was serious.

The Act, properly administered, will go far in improving the standards of health and welfare of office and shop workers, particularly should this be so in connection with office workers, as the provisions of the Act, relating to offices, are the first of their kind.

It was unfortunate that with other pressing emergencies and staff difficulties, the amount of work achieved in this particular field although not inconsiderable, fell below my expectations.

(a) Registrations and General Inspections.

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year.	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices.	-	95	95
Retail Shops.	2	178	178
Wholesale shops, warehouses.	-	3	3
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens.	-	13	13
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	289	289

Factories Act 1961

PART 1.

INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	1	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	51	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	18	Nil	Nil
Total ...	68	70	3	Nil

Factories Act 1961

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	2	2	-	1	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	Nil	1	Nil

Factories Act 1961

PART VIII

(OUTWORK)

(Sections 133 & 134)

	Section 133	Section 134			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole some premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) making apparel) etc.	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
) cleaning					
) and washing	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Milk Samples.

During the year thirty-two samples of "Untreated" milk were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Twenty-six samples, representing 81.25% of the number submitted, satisfied the Methylene Blue Keeping Quality Test. This result is rather shattering, particularly so, when I have to report that all the six unsatisfactory samples were procured from the same producer.

Representations were made to the producer, the Divisional Milk Officer and to the Northumberland County Council and through the latter, to the Milk Sub-Committee of the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

It is hoped that through these various channels, the keeping quality of the milk will improve, and produce more realistic results.

Biological examination of samples of milk taken from these producers proved negative to M. Tuberculosis.

Ice-Cream Samples

Five samples of ice-cream were procured during the year; three samples of "loose" ice-cream and two samples of prewrapped. Both the samples of pre-wrapped ice-cream and one sample of "loose" ice-cream were placed in Provisional Grade 1, the remaining samples of "loose" ice-cream were placed in Provisional Grade 2.

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Section 62 (Licensing of Slaughter-Houses)

There are no slaughter-houses in the district.

Food Premises

There are one hundred and fifty-seven food premises in the district, a decrease of six premises upon the figure recorded for the previous year. Details of these premises are shown in the following table:-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
Grocers	21	Retail bakers	15
General Dealers	17	Premises with 'Off-Licence'	12
Meat Purveyors	19	Fishmongers & Poulterers	5
Fruiterers	13	Bakehouses	3
Licensed premises	25	Fried Fish & Chips	6
Confectioners	17	Cafes	4

It was regretted that the number of visits to food premises again showed a decrease. Nevertheless, there was no relaxation of effort on the part of your inspectors to promote and maintain the highest standards of hygiene in food premises. In certain instances, in mitigation of failing to maintain reasonable standards, proprietors and managers of food premises complain of staffing problems, the difficulty of engaging and keeping staff, and more important, the apathetic approach to good standards of hygiene, displayed by some members of staff. Fortunately, the latter are few in number and the standard of food hygiene generally is fairly high and it was not found necessary to resort to any formal action.

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Section 16 (Registration of food premises)

One application for the manufacture of preserved food intended for sale was received and duly approved.

Sixty-four premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream; two premises for the manufacture of ice-cream and twenty-seven premises for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, etc., intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as aforesaid, are shown as follows:-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	15	Bakehouses	3
Meat Purveyors	16	Retail Bakers	7
Confectioners	14	Fruiterers	4
Grocers	19	Fishmongers	1
Fried Fish & Chips	6	'Off-Licence'	3
		Cafe	1

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Section 2. (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8. (Sale, etc., of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year twelve complaints were received alleging the unfitness of food for human consumption.

Legal proceedings were instituted in connection with six of these complaints, details of which are as follows:-

Meat pie containing glass	Fined £30 plus £4.3s.4d. costs
Mouldy loaf of bread	Fined £30 plus £4.18s.9d. costs
Mouldy packet of sausages	Fined £30 plus £3.18s.0d. costs
Cheese infested with insects	Fined £20
Packet of cereals infested with insects	Fined £20
Mouldy loaf of bread	Fined £5 plus £3.18s.0d. costs

Apropos the other six complaints, warnings were issued in three cases, and no action taken in the remaining three cases.

Adulteration of Food.

I am indebted to Mr. C. L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Northumberland County Council, for supplying me with details of samples taken by his sampling officers in the Urban District of Gosforth during the year under review.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that one hundred and sixty-eight samples were procured which included eighteen samples taken at schools.

The following sample was adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Blackcurrant Drink	The label declares:- "A blend of blackcurrant and other fruit juices with added sugar". This is not a specific declaration of contents required by the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.	Enquiries revealed that this was old stock and now out of production. No further action taken.

TABLE 1

(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Accumulations	4
Dampness (Dwelling House)	23
Defective Drains	6
Defective Dustbins	97
Disrepair (Dwelling House)	58
Extraneous matter in food	12
Foul Smells	10
Noise Nuisances	2
Vermin (Insects)	33
Vermin (Rats)	62
" (Mice)	32
Miscellaneous	20
	359

TABLE 11.

(Summary of Visits)

Accumulations	5
Dwelling Houses	935
Ditches and Streams	14
Drainage Systems	149
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	17
Water	113
Factories (Mechanical)	51
(Non-mechanical)	1
(Outworkers)	5
Food Premises	302
Ice-Cream Samples	5
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	31
Disinfections	5
Revisits	19
Improvement Grants	290
Licensed Premises	23
Milk Samples and Enquiries	32
National Assistance Act	7
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	420
Rodent Infestations:-	
Rats	395
Mice	165
Refuse Collection - Supervision	377
Schools Re. Sanitation	2
Shops Act	45
Smoke Observations, Survey, etc.	154
Tents, Vans and Sheds	1
Verminous Premises	109
Water Samples	16
Miscellaneous	74
Total	3762

CONCLUSION

It always affords me the greatest of pleasure in concluding my report to express my sincere appreciation for the kind support I have received throughout the year from the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee and from all other members of the Council. I am deeply grateful for the sympathetic and courteous manner in which my reports to the various committees have been received and dealt with.

I would also like to thank the Clerk to the Council and Dr. Smith for their advice and support, and to express my appreciation to the other Chief Officials for the co-operation received in dealing with the many and varied matters occurring during the year.

I was very sorry to lose the services of Mr. Jones, my additional inspector, who was a first-class officer, and as I stated earlier in my report, I wish him well in his new appointment.

The department was well served by Mrs. Robinson who carried out with great efficiency the numerous tasks, clerical and otherwise, entirely on her own, for the greater part of the year. I am indeed indebted to her for her painstaking efforts and loyal support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

